REMARKS

Claims 5, 12, and 16 remain in the application with claims 5 and 16 having been amended hereby. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, and 17-32 have previously been canceled.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 5, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,850,457, to Gefvert, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,118,876, to Ruzicka, U.S. Patent No. 5,589,718, to Lee (Lee ('718)), U.S. Patent No. 5,470,253, to Siems et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,824,524, to Glover, and/or U.S. Patent No. 5,984,717, to Lee (Lee '717)).

Independent claim 5, as amended, relates to a multi-channel audio system comprising an electronic apparatus provided on a back panel thereof with at least four audio signal output terminals for a plurality of channels. A plurality of speakers generates acoustic output for each of the plurality of channels in a form of audio signals output from the audio signal output terminals. Each of a plurality of connecting cable members incorporates a pair of conductor members bearing a pair of polarities and sheathed by one of a plurality of insulating sheathing members for connecting the electronic apparatus to the plurality of speakers. Each of the audio signal output terminals is arranged corresponding to positions of the plurality of speakers such that signal output terminals corresponding to left

channels are arranged to the left of signal output terminals corresponding to right channels and signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged on top of signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels or signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged below signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels. The plurality of speakers is arranged corresponding to the plurality of channels. Each of the audio signal output terminals is distinguished by one of a plurality of different respective colors for enabling each of the plurality of channels to be discernible. A name of a corresponding audio output channel and a colored mark that shows discernment corresponding to channels of the respective output terminal is displayed surrounding the respective output terminal on the back panel of the electronic apparatus whereat the audio signal output terminals are located. Each of the plurality of connecting cable members is distinguished by one of the plurality of colors corresponding to a color distribution of the colored marks surrounding each of the audio signal output terminals. The distinction of each of the plurality of connecting cable members is implemented by a plurality of thermally contractile tubes each bearing a different color secured to each of the plurality of connecting cable members. One end of the connecting cable member has a plug connector structure fitted with the pair of conductor members in the form of a pair of coupling holes respectively connected to

two conductor portions. Each plug connector structure has a different respective color corresponding to the color distribution of the plurality of colored marks surrounding the audio signal output terminals. The audio signal output terminals conform to a socket connector structure coupled with the plug connector member formed on one and of the connecting cable member. Each socket connector mounted on the back panel of the electronic apparatus has a pair of connecting pins bearing a pair of polarities and position-controlling means for matching the polarities when another of the plug connectors is coupled with the socket connector. The pair of coupling holes are to be coupled with the two connecting pins and the plug connector includes a position-controlling means coupling portion to be coupled with the position-controlling means of the socket connector for matching the polarities.

Gefvert relates to a sound reproduction systems for multi-dimensional sound reproduction utilizing multiple audio channels to generate multiple soundfields.

Ruzicka relates to the reproduction of stereophonic sound associated with a video image so that dialog is localized to the video image and ambiance and sound effects are reproduced in a manner that immerses the listener in a realistic, three-dimensional sound field.

Lee ('718) relates to a power line conditioner strip

containing a plurality of alternating current ("AC") outlets for receiving electrical components.

Siems et al. relates to a wiring system for use with an engine and/or power module having a number of electrical systems, each electrical system including a number of electrical devices, and more particularly to a wiring system in which the electrical connectors connected between the electrical devices are marked with indicating or identifying indicia.

Glover relates to a high-voltage electrical connector for use in panels, such as on electronic filters, capable of easily receiving field-installed wires.

Lee ('717) relates to an electrical cable including at least one coupler which is attached or attachable to the electrical cable. The coupler permits the cable to be attached to it or to adjacent cables, thereby providing a neater and more organized interconnection of electrical devices.

The cited art, either taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that each of the audio signal output terminals is arranged corresponding to positions of the plurality of speakers such that signal output terminals corresponding to left channels are arranged to the left of signal output terminals corresponding to right channels and signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged on top of signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels or signal output

terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged below signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels (see for example, Figs. 1 and 2 and page 18, line 8-page 19, line 2).

This feature is an advantage over the prior art arrangement seen, for example, Figs. 12 and 13, in that it provides a visually intuitive layout and minimizes the tangling of wires.

The Examiner contends that Gefvert teaches that each of the audio signal output terminals are arranged corresponding to positions of the plurality of speakers. However, Gefvert does not teach or suggest that signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged on top of signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels or signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged below signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels. According to Gefvert, as seen in Figs. 8A and 8B, all signal output terminals are arranged in a single row. Moreover this feature is not taught or suggested anywhere else in the cited art.

The cited art, either taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the output terminals are marked with a name of a corresponding audio output channel. The Examiner contends that Lee (`718) teaches the use of colored indicia, as a colored mark surrounding the output terminal. However Lee (`718) fails to teach or suggest that the output terminals are marked with a name of a corresponding audio output channel. Moreover this feature is not taught or suggested anywhere else in the

cited art.

Therefore, independent claim 5 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least the reasons stated above. Additionally, claims 12 and 16 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Therefore, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a connector, multi-channel audio system, electronic apparatus, and cable for connection, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to the claims hereby raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because all of the features of this invention have clearly been considered by the examiner in the prosecution of this application and because the present amendments serve only to further define and emphasize the novel features of this invention.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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